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Some of the book makes dry reading. Yet there are compensations. Commenting on the historic divorce suit in which Parnell was co-respondent and in which Mr. Clarke was counsel for the plaintiff, Mr. Clarke said to David Plunket, "I knew I was throwing a bombshell into the Irish camp, but I did not know it would do quite so much mischief." "Ah," said Plunket, "you didn't know that when it burst they would pick up the pieces and cut each other's throats with them." Cynicism speaks for the first time when the author finds an epigram in the remark that certain facts will soon pass into history and so be forgotten. And it is not unpleasant to know that the attainment of the first rung of the ladder of success which Mr. Clarke climbed so steadily may have been due to his belief that Hamlet had seduced Ophelia.

There is a pleasant flavor in the book, remindful of the fact — often forgotten, so vigorous does its author still seem to be — that he was born while Lincoln was an obscure Illinois attorney. His story will not rank with the great autobiographies of literature, and his part in the making of history was too unobtrusive, his career too devoid of gestures, for his book to take a place with the memoirs of more prominent men of his time. But it is such men as he, sober, industrious, capable, high-principled, giving themselves freely and yet living richly, such lives as the one of which he writes, that help to give his profession its dignity.

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OUTLINE OF A COURSE ON THE HISTORY AND SYSTEM OF THE COMMON LAW. By Roscoe Pound. (Cambridge. 1919.)

In the spring of 1919, Dean Pound delivered ten lectures on the common law to the students of the Trade Union College; and it was a characteristic generosity which led him to reprint their outline for the benefit of a wider audience. Their value consists less in any theoretic novelties they unfold than in the clue they afford to the general lines upon which Dean Pound's legal thinking proceeds. Like all he writes, these pages make positions which, in the past, were the object of furious contention seem the most reasonable in the world. The reader's special attention should be drawn to the four "jural postulates" which appear on page 40 of *The Outline*. They represent a summary of the philosophic bases from which all juristic thinking must start. It is evident that much labor has gone into their making; and they make us all the more eager for that long-expected volume in which Dean Pound is to summarize for us the immense edifice which has earned him the respect of all who care for legal science.

H. J. L.

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EXECUTORS' ACCOUNTS. By Charles Howard Widdifield. Toronto: The Carswell Company. 1919. pp. lv, 531.

Judge Widdifield is doing for Ontario what we hope may be done for many of our American jurisdictions, — writing special books on the administration of estates. In 1916 he published his "Executors' Accounts," and the present volume is one of a second edition. In 1917 he wrote "Surrogate Court Practice and Procedure." His new edition of "Executors' Accounts" is nearly double the size of the first, and he has cited cases from all over the common-law world. The book covers the important topics on accounts, but seems to us to deal too briefly with the modern subject of succession duties. Furthermore, we should have liked to have more of a discussion of the best practice on the form of entering the items of the account. How should a pew, a cemetery lot, a copyright, a wasting investment, be inventoried or entered on the